

Lower-Income Workers & Seniors Qualify for Economic Stimulus Payments

The US Congress recently approved an economic stimulus package that includes \$300 rebates (\$600 on a joint return) for lower-income workers and Senior citizens who can show at least \$3,000 in income.

For lower-income people in our community, the money they will receive as an economic stimulus is important. These people normally are not required to file a tax return because their incomes are too low. However, they must file a simple 2007 tax return in order to get a stimulus check.

The River Center and the Contoocook Valley Money Matters Coalition is requesting that interested organizations, churches, and individuals use this information to ensure that eligible Seniors and low-income workers in their communities know about this stimulus payment and have the help they need to file for it. Please do what you can to spread the word.

How Do You Qualify:

- You must have at least \$3,000 in income from any combination of social security benefits, veterans disability compensation, and wages
 - For Social Security recipients, this will be listed on Form 1099-SSA that recipients received earlier this year. It includes social security disability payments. People who do not have this form can estimate their annual benefit by multiplying their monthly check by the number of months they received Social Security benefits in 2007.
 - For people with wages, this will be shown in box 1 of their Form W-2.
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) does not count as qualifying income for the stimulus payment.
- You must have a valid Social Security Number.
- You cannot be claimed as a dependent by someone else on his or her tax return.

What You Could Get:

- \$300 if filing as an individual.
- \$600 if filing a joint return.
- \$300 for each qualifying child under age 17 as of December 31, 2007 who lived with you for more than half of 2007.

What You Need to Do

- This is not an automatic payment. You must file a tax return for 2007 in order to receive the stimulus payment.
- Tax filings to only receive the stimulus payments are NOT due by April 15th. These filings can be made through October 15, 2008.

- You do not have to calculate the payment. If you qualify, the IRS will automatically figure it and send it to you.
- Mail your completed Form 1040A to: Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service Center, Andover MA 05501-0002

What You Need to Fill Out – Form 1040A

- The IRS has released a special sample of Form 1040A that highlights the simple specific sections to be filled out by lower-income workers and Seniors to qualify for a stimulus payment. You can use this example to fill out Form 1040A quickly and easily.
- There are a limited number of lines that need to be filled out to claim the stimulus payment:
 - Your name, address, Social Security Number, filing status
 - Your exemptions, including qualifying children
 - Key line on 1040A is Line 14a where Social Security benefits is reported
 - If you need to include wage earnings to reach the \$3,000 qualifying level, enter that amount on Line 7
- Write the words “Stimulus Payment” at the top of Form 1040A.
- Remember to sign and date the second page.
- Complete Lines 44 b, c, and d with your bank account number and bank routing number if want direct deposit to savings or checking account. Otherwise, the stimulus check will be mailed to you.

When Will You Receive Your Check

- The IRS will start issuing economic stimulus checks in May and continue through December 2008.
- The schedule for issuing checks will be based on the last four digits of the individual’s Social Security number. It will not make any difference when the 1040A forms are submitted.

Where Can You Get Forms & Information

- Forms are usually available at your community Post Office and Library. They are also available at the IRS website www.IRS.gov
- The sample Form 1040A is also available at www.IRS.gov on a special section on the economic stimulus payments.
- The IRS plans to send economic stimulus tax return packages to the estimated 20+ million lower-income Seniors in the US. The package will include 2 copies of Form 1040A, a directions booklet, and an IRS phone number.
- People with internet access can file on-line for free by going to www.irs.gov
- The River Center’s Information & Assisted Referral Specialist also has the Form 1040A and Sample Form 1040A as an electronic pdf file. Contact Tammy at 924 6800 or information@rivercenter.us